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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01326 181351Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-01 DHA-02
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 NSC-05
SS-15 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /054 W
----------181405 094557 /40
R 181306Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4166

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC, BL
SUBJECT: U.S. PRISONERS - WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE OF
FEBRUARY 16

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED USINFO GIVING US TEXT OF AN ARTICLE APPEARING ON FEBRUARY 16 IN WASHINGTON POST HEADED "U.S. URGES DRUGS EFFORT IN BOLIVIA, THEN BACKS OFF." AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT THE MOSKOWITZ TEAM CAMEVLO BOLIVIA TO PRESSURE BOLIVIAN JUDGES AND INTERIOR MINISTERPO SPEED UP TRIALS OF US PRISONERS. FURTHERMORE, STATE DEPARTMENT LEGAL OFFICER LOUIS FIELDS IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR TOLD HIM THERE WOULD BE A CASE-BY-CASE REVIEW "TO SEE IF THERE IS SUFFICIENCY OF EVIDENCE" AGAINST THE AMERICANS. THE STORY GOES ON TO QUOTE FIELDS COMMENTING THAT THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE AGAINST SOME OF THE DEFENDANTS "TO SATISFY OUR LEGAL SYSTEM". FIELDS ALSO WAS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID, "AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THE REVIEW SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN A MONTH."

2. EMBASSY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE HAVING EXACT TEXT OF FIELD'S REMARKS TO WASHINGTON POST REPORTER. THE WAY STATEMENTS ARE REPORTED THERE IS GRAVE RISK THAT PROBLEMS WILL BE CREATED FOR GOB IN THE CASE-BY-CASE REVIEW.
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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 01326 181351Z

3. THIS STORY, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE RECENT ONE IN THE WASHINGTON STAR WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MORE AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE PARENTS, RAISES THE PROBLEM ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ADVERSE GOB REACTION TO PUBLICITY IN THIS MATTER. IT IS THE EMBASSY'S UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MOSKOWITZ TEAM WOULD COUNSEL CAUTION IN GOING PUBLIC ON THE

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SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE US PRISONERS PROBLEM. WE HERE STILL
BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE WISE POLICY AND HOPE THEREFORE THAT
STEPS WILL BE TAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRISONERS WELFARE, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3283523
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. PRISONERS - WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE OF FEBRUARY 16
TAGS: CASC, BL
To: STATE
Type: TE
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22 May 2009
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